

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented) The process of Claim 42, wherein the oligomers are 5, 7, 3', 4'-tetra-O-benzyl-(4 β ,8) epicatechin-oligomers, and wherein the silver tetrafluoroborate is dried before the reaction.

Claim 18 (original) The process of Claim 17, wherein the drying is vacuum drying carried out immediately before the reaction.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The process of Claim 43, wherein the mixture comprises protected trimer through protected heptamer when the protected oligomer is the protected dimer, protected tetramer through protected octamer when the protected oligomer is the protected trimer, and protected pentamer through protected undecamer when the protected oligomer is the protected tetramer.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The process of Claim 43, further comprising the step of isolating the protected oligomers in the mixture by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography.

Claim 21 (original) The process of Claim 20, further comprising the step of removing the acetyl-protecting groups from the isolated oligomers.

Claim 22 (previously presented) The process of Claim 21, where the acetyl-protecting groups are removed with aqueous tetra-n-butyl ammonium hydroxide.

Claim 23 (original) The process of Claim 20, further comprising the step of removing the benzyl-protecting groups from the isolated oligomers.

Claim 24 (previously presented) The process of Claim 23, wherein the benzyl-protecting groups are removed by hydrogenolysis.

Claim 25 (original) The process of Claim 20, further comprising the steps of removing the acetyl protecting groups and then removing the benzyl protecting groups.

Claim 26 (previously presented) The process of Claim 25, wherein the acetyl-protecting groups are removed with aqueous tetra-n-butyl ammonium hydroxide and wherein the benzyl-protecting groups are removed by hydrogenolysis.

Claims 27-41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (previously presented) A process for preparing a mixture of 5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin-(4,8)-oligomers comprises reacting a 5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin or -catechin monomer or a 5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin or -catechin-(4,8)-oligomer with a 3-O-acetyl-4-[(2-benzothiazolyl)thio]-5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin or -catechin monomer in the presence of silver tetrafluoroborate.

Claim 43 (previously presented) A process for preparing a mixture of 3-O-acetyl-5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin- and/or -catechin-(4,8)-oligomers comprises reacting a 3-O-acetyl-5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin or -catechin monomer or a 3-O-acetyl-5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin- and/or -catechin-(4,8)-oligomer with a 3-O-acetyl-4-[(2-benzothiazolyl)thio]-5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin or -catechin monomer in the presence of silver tetrafluoroborate.

Claim 44 (amended) The process of Claim 42 or 43, further comprising the step of isolating the protected oligomers in the mixture by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography.

Claim 45 (amended) The process of Claim 44, further comprising the step of removing ~~the benzyl-protecting~~ protecting groups from the isolated oligomers.

Claim 46 (previously presented) The process of Claim 45, wherein the benzyl-protecting groups are removed by hydrogenolysis.